

## Message Text

SECRET

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15  
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66011  
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----- 077628  
R 282214Z JAN 76  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USMTN DHAHRAN  
USAS RIYADH

S E C R E T STATE 021438

EXDIS MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOL RPT JIDDA 628 ACTION SECSTATE INFO LONDON PARIS SANA 28 JAN.

QUOTE

S E C R E T JIDDA 0628

EXDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS SECDEF, USMTM DHAHRAN AND USAS RIYADH

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MARR, MASS, SA, YE, UK  
SUBJECT: BRITISH PARTICIPATION IN YAR ARMED FORCES MODERNIZATION

REF (A) JIDDA 0481, (B) STATE 16242

1. AS DISCUSSED IN REFS A AND B WE CONSULTED WITH BRITISH  
EMBASSY JIDDA AND ASKED MODA CHIEF OF STAFF FOR OPERATIONS  
ALI KABBANI IF THE BRITISH COULD PARTICIPATE IN JAN 26  
MEETING WITH MODA STAFF ON YAR ARMED FORCES MODERNIZATION  
PROGRAM. KABBANI SAID HE WOULD PREFER THE BRITISH NOT  
PARTICIPATE BECAUSE HE WAS UNAWARE OF MINDEF PRINCE SULTAN'S  
THINKING ON BRITISH INVOLVEMENT. WE ALSO SENT A LETTER TO  
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MINDEF PRINCE SULTAN ASKING WHETHER HE THOUGH IT APPROPRIATE

FOR THE BRITISH TO JOIN IN BUT HE WAS AWAY FROM RIYADH ON A HUNTING TRIP AND NO RESPONSE WAS RECEIVED BY THE TIME OF THE MEETING.

2. DURING THE MEETING OF OSD TEAM AND REPRESENTATIVES OF EMBASSIES JIDDA AND SANA AND USMTM'S US ARMY SECTION WITH MODA YEMEN PROJECT OFFICER COL FALAH DHAHIRI, DHAHIRI SAID THAT MODA SAW NO RPT NO ROLE AT THIS TIME FOR BRITISH PARTICIPATION IN THE YEMEN ARMED FORCES MODERNIZATION PROGRAM.' "WE WANT TO PROVIDE YEMEN WITH EQUIPMENT SIMILAR TO OUR EQUIPMENT TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR TRAINING AND MAINTENANCE," DHAHIRI SAID, "UNTIL NOW WE FORESEE ONLY FRENCH AND AMERICAN EQUIPMENT BEING PROVIDED TO YEMEN. WE HAVE NOT RPT NOT THOUGHT YET ABOUT BRITAIN. IT WILL ADD TO OUR TROUBLES IF WE SPLIT IT UP. IT WILL START SOMETHING NEW."

3. DHAHIRI ALSO SAID THAT THE SAG MAY PROVIDE SOME FRENCH-MADE PANHARD ARMORED CARS AND "SOME AMC-30 TANKS IN THE FUTURE." THESE, HE SAID, WOULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH PRE-SENT SAG EQUIPMENT.

4. DHAHIRI DID NOT RPT NOT RULE OUT BRITISH INVOLVEMENT AT SOME LATER DATE.

5. WE INFORMED BRITISH EMBASSY COUNSELOR OLIVER MILES AND DEFENSE ATTACHE BRIAN LEES OF THE RESULTS OF OUR EFFORTS TO INCLUDE THEM AND BRIEFED THEM ON THE RESULTS OF THE MEETING. UK EMBASSY HERE WILL PROBABLY RECOMMEND THAT THEY MAKE A UNILATERAL APPROACH TO MODA TO SEE WHAT IF ANY ROLE THE SAG HAS IN MIND FOR THEM IN THE YAR MODERNIZATION PROGRAM. WE THINK THIS IS A LOGICAL APPROACH.  
PORTER  
UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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